



INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: August 29, 1994

TO: J. B. Mellen, Solar Pond Projects, Bldg. 080, X8607

FROM: L. A. Collins, Solar Pond Projects, Bldg. 080, X6968
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SUBJECT: WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE PONDCRETE UNDER THE
CAP - LAC-023-94, KCL-005-94

DOE Order: 4700.1

Action: None required

This letter documents a need for immediate direction and authorization if pondcrete is to be included in Operable Unit (OU) 4 Phase I remediation.

We understand the RFFO is considering including inventory pondcrete in the OU 4 closure. We feel direction and funding authorization to plan must be obtained in the first week of October, 1994, if we are to have a chance of implementing the pondcrete option. A rigorous evaluation would be needed to prove out our preliminary conclusions, and that evaluation could be the first task in the pondcrete effort.

The following factors figure in our thoughts:

- Analysis of the remediation schedule indicated that resolution of issues regarding incorporation of the sludge must be resolved by October 7 (94-RF-08120). The same time-frame would, by analogy, apply to pondcrete.
- The process and performance criteria established for the sludge treatment would also apply to pondcrete.
- The current baseline assumptions (ER 2000) for pondcrete remix lead to a schedule that is totally incompatible with the OU 4 closure.
- A minimal treatment pondcrete shredding and soil or flyash mixing process may be consistent with the OU 4 closure schedule. Initial volume estimates of minimally treated sludge and pondcrete are less than the 14,000 yd³ space in the closure cell.
- There is no room for the pondcrete process on the 750 Pad. An alternative location may be available, however, in Building 960. SPP staffing will present a considerable problem.
- If we determine that it is impossible to incorporate the pondcrete into OU 4 closure in an acceptable time frame, alternate approaches may be available to achieve an accelerated disposition: perhaps incorporation into another OU that will use a CAMU permit.
- The acceleration possible in the pondcrete approach may allow us to meet the ER 2000 goal for the 750 Pad: currently, closure of 750 Pad cannot be accomplished to meet ER 2000.

ADMIN RECORD

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We recommend that DOE authorization to proceed be obtained immediately. This immediate task is needed to preserve the option of pondcrete inclusion in the OU 4 closure. We also recommend that two or more SPP teams be formed immediately: pondcrete treatment and Building 964 disposition. Additional SPP staff should also be sought immediately: an initial estimate is four to six additional personnel are needed to implement the pondcrete/Building 964 scope.

We estimate that for minimally treated pondcrete to finish 2 1/2 years from today may be possible, but if decisions are delayed, it does not seem possible to complete even with increased SPP staff.

We do not want the window of opportunity for incorporating pondcrete to close without an explicit decision. For further discussion, please give us a call.

jlb

cc:

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